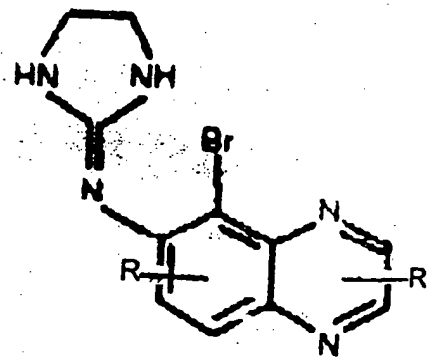
Listing of the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A method of inhibiting a degenerative condition of a photoreceptor cell in a retina, ~~which disease or condition is caused by damage, disruption, or degeneration of an RPE cell or a Muller cell~~, said method comprising contacting said retina with a composition comprising a brimonidine compound in an amount effective to inhibit the degenerative condition, wherein said condition is selected from the group consisting of age-related macular degeneration (AMD) with RPE detachment, exudative AMD, geographic RPE atrophy, non-geographic RPE atrophy, choriocapillaris atrophy, and retinitis pigmentosa caused by genetic mutations in the RPE.

Claim 2 (original): The method of claim 1, wherein the brimonidine compound has the following structure:



Where R is C_{1-5} alkyl, Br, Cl or NO_2, and pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof.

Claim 3 (original): The method of claim 1, wherein the brimonidine compound is brimonidine tartrate.

Claim 4 (original): The method of claim 1, wherein the amount of brimonidine is between about 0.01% and about 0.05% in a pharmaceutically acceptable vehicle.

Claim 5 (currently amended): A method of treating a degenerative condition of retinal photoreceptors, ~~caused by damage, disruption, or degeneration of an RPE cell or a Muller cell~~, said method comprising administering to a subject in need thereof, a composition comprising a brimonidine compound in an amount effective to delay or reverse said condition, wherein said condition is selected from the group consisting of age-related macular degeneration (AMD) with RPE detachment, exudative AMD, geographic RPE atrophy, non-geographic RPE atrophy, choriocapillaris atrophy, and retinitis pigmentosa caused by genetic mutations in the RPE.

Claim 6 (original): The method of claim 5, wherein the brimonidine compound is administered topically to the eye.

Claim 7 (original): The method of claim 5, wherein the amount of brimonidine provides between about 10 and about 1000 nanomolar intraocular concentration.

Claim 8 (original): The method of claim 5, wherein said subject is a vertebrate.

Claim 9 (original): The method of claim 8, wherein said vertebrate is a mammal.

Claim 10 (original): The method of claim 9, wherein said vertebrate is a human being.

Claim 11 (canceled).

Claim 12 (canceled).

Claim 13 (canceled).

Claim 14 (currently amended): A method of reversing or delaying ~~degeneration~~ a degenerative condition of a photoreceptor cell in a retina, comprising contacting said retina with a composition that includes an amount of a brimonidine compound effective to inhibit GFAP expression in Müller cells, wherein said condition is selected from the group consisting of age-related macular degeneration (AMD) with RPE detachment, exudative AMD, geographic RPE atrophy, non-geographic RPE atrophy, choriocapillaris atrophy, and retinitis pigmentosa caused by genetic mutations in the RPE.

Claim 15 (currently amended): A method of reversing or delaying ~~degeneration~~ a degenerative condition of a photoreceptor cell in a retina, comprising contacting said retina with a composition that includes an amount of a brimonidine compound effective to stimulate upregulation of glutamine synthetase in Müller cells, wherein said condition is selected from the group consisting of age-related macular degeneration (AMD) with RPE detachment, exudative AMD, geographic RPE atrophy, non-geographic RPE atrophy, choriocapillaris atrophy, and retinitis pigmentosa caused by genetic mutations in the RPE.

Claim 16 (original): The method in claim 14 or 15, wherein the brimonidine compound is brimonidine tartrate.

Claim 17 (original): The method in claim 14 or 15, wherein the contacting is by topical administration.

Claims 18-24 (canceled).